

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action entered on May 3, 2007. Claims 1-16 were initially pending. Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 15 and 16 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Pat. No. 6,438,241 issued to Silfvast et al. (Silfvast). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of Silfvast. Claims 12-14 were indicated as allowable if amended to remove dependencies on rejected claims. Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 16 are hereby amended. Claims 14 and 15 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. New claims 17 and 18 are hereby added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the rejections in view of the amendments and arguments submitted herein is respectfully requested.

Embodiments of the present invention are directed to an audio signal processing device such as, for example, a mixer. The device may have a number of controls as shown in Fig. 1. Various controls may each be associated with a respective parameter. Respective displays (e.g., groups of multiple LEDs) can also be associated with some of the controls to show the current value of a parameter for a particular control (i.e., the parameter's current set value).

A user may change the value of a parameter by manipulating a respective control (e.g., by turning a knob). In addition, a user may automatically change the values of multiple or all parameters simultaneously by loading a set of stored values for those parameters. This is referred to as loading a scene.

Prior art devices experience some user interface problems when loading scenes. More specifically, a user may not be aware of how all of the parameters change when loading a scene. Although all new loaded values of the parameters may be displayed, since many displays change simultaneously when loading a scene a user may not be able to follow all the changes. Thus, embodiments of the present invention provide that, when loading a stored value for a parameter, the previously set value and the newly loaded value may be displayed simultaneously for some time. For example, the previously set value may be displayed by dimmer light, while the newly loaded

value may be displayed in brighter light. Thus, a user is immediately aware what changes are made to the various parameters by loading a scene.

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Of these, claim 15 is cancelled and claim 16 is amended to form a proper method claim. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the §101 rejections are overcome. Applicants have submitted a new claim directed to a medium.

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 15 and 16 were rejected as anticipated by Silfvast. Of these, claim 15 is cancelled and claims 1 and 16 are independent. Claim 1 is amended to recite “a display controller for making said display simultaneously present the loaded value of the parameter and a value of the parameter set at a time of the loading when loading the value of the parameter in said loading, such that a common display simultaneously presents the loaded value and the value set at the time of the loading in different display styles.” Similarly, claim 16 recites “making the display simultaneously present the loaded value of the parameter and a value of the parameter set at a time of the loading in different styles when loading the value of the parameter in said loading.” Support for these amendments may be found in the specification, including Figs 6 and 7.

Thus, both claims recite that a single display for a single parameter displays two values for that parameter – a set value (i.e., the value which was set before a new value is loaded) and a loaded value (i.e., the newly loaded value). This is not disclosed by Silfvast. In fact, Silfvast does not disclose simultaneously displaying two values for a single parameter.

In Figs. 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10A and 10B Silfvast discloses various methods for displaying a single value for a parameter. It is true that Silfvast discloses using LEDs of different brightness for the display (as do embodiments of the present invention). However, in contrast to the present invention, the LEDs of different brightness of Silfvast are not used to display two values for a parameter but to more fancifully display a single value. More specifically, a leading LED of high brightness (e.g., LED 600, 601 or 602) is provided and a number of LEDs from the leading LED to an anchor are illuminated at a lower brightness. But both the high and lower brightness LEDs illustrate a single value of a parameter (presumably the current set value of said parameter). Thus,

the difference in brightness does not impart any additional information or display a second value of the parameter in any way. It merely makes the display of a single parameter value look nicer and/or easier to read. See Silfvast, col. 9, lines 15-56.

Figs 11A, 11B and 11C do not display different values of the same parameter as recited by the claims. Furthermore, they do not display “the loaded value of the parameter and a value of the parameter set at a time of the loading” recited by the claims. Instead, they display a current set value of a parameter (point 604) and various other parameter(s) (such as “a possible Q range”). See col. 9, line 57 through col. 10, line 13.

Therefore, Silfvast does not disclose “making said display simultaneously present the loaded value of the parameter and a value of the parameter set at a time of the loading” as recited by independent claims 1 and 16. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 11 are patentable in view of Silfvast. Claims 2-6, and 8-11 are patentable because they depend upon patentable claim 1.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of Silfvast. It is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is patentable because it depends upon patentable claim 1.

New claims 17 and 18 are hereby added. Claim 17 finds support throughout the specification such as, for example, page 10, line 3 through page 11, line 24, page 14, lines 408. Claim 18 also finds support throughout the specification, such as page 19, lines 21-26, Fig. 6.

Claim 17 is patentable in view of Silfvast because it depends from patentable claim 1. Claim 18 is patentable because it recites “making the display simultaneously present the loaded value of the parameter and a value of the parameter set at a time of the loading.” These recitations are not disclosed by Silfvast for the reasons discussed above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032043900.

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